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*Newly released figures show that the eurozone (countries that use the Euro) has gone into recession for the first time in its history. Germany went into recession on Thursday, prompting fears that other major economies might follow suit. Greg Morsbach has more:*

The **figures** from Italy show that Europe's fourth largest economy is now **officially in recession** after two **consecutive quarters** of **negative growth**. The Italian economy **shrank** by half a percent in the third quarter, after **posting** a nought point three percent fall in the previous quarter.

The Spanish government also reported its first **negative growth** in fifteen years.

But France **bucked the trend** of **gloomy** news today: they **defied economic forecasts** and **narrowly escaped** recession by announcing minimal growth for the period between July and September.

Greg Morsbach, BBC

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>figures</b>	here, official statistics
<b>officially in recession</b>	'recession' means a period, shorter than a depression, when there is a stable decline in a country's economy; a country is officially in recession when its economy declines, or becomes smaller, for two <b>consecutive quarters</b>
<b>consecutive quarters</b>	periods of three months each, one following the other
<b>negative growth</b>	when economy declines
<b>shrank</b>	declined, became smaller
<b>posting</b>	finishing with, registering, announcing
<b>bucked the trend</b>	didn't do what most others did
<b>gloomy</b>	leaving no hope, causing despair
<b>defied economic forecasts</b>	showed different - better - results than many expected
<b>narrowly escaped</b>	only just managed to avoid

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7728649.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/11/081114\\_eu\\_recession.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/11/081114_eu_recession.shtml)